

Iowa People and Events ...

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Early Des Moines Document

One of the earliest written records of the town of Fort Des Moines was recently presented to the manuscript division of the State Department of History & Archives by Des Moines attorney, F. W. Lehmann, Jr. The faded and tattered document printed below, an original copy of the resolutions and by-laws of the first claim association organized by the pioneers of Fort Des Moines, probably represents the first step in the establishment of local government at Racoon Forks.

It is dated October 14, 1845, three days after the expiration of the treaty with the Sac and Fox, which opened the Des Moines valley and the country beyond the Red Rock line to legal settlement. Captain James Allen received orders to abandon the fort which his troops had built in the spring of 1843, and was directed to oversee the removal of approximately 500 Indians in the territory to lands reserved for them in Kansas. The following Thursday these initial "laws" to protect their claims against speculators, claim jumpers and the more unscrupulous element were adopted at a public meeting attended by a score or more settlers who had staked out lands in the vicinity of Fort Des Moines.

The proceedings of this meeting, discovered some years ago among the papers of Pleasant J. Mills, member of a pioneer Des Moines family, were signed by almost all the known founders of the capital city of Iowa. Mr. Lehmann's gift to the public is greatly appreciated.

Proceedings of a claim meeting held at John B. Scott's Trading House near Fort Des Moines, Racoon Fort, Iowa Territory, Oct. 14th, 1845—on Tuesday—

On motion the meeting was organized by calling W. H. Meacham, Chairman and J. M. Thrift, Secretary.

Resolved we appoint a committee of five to draft Resolutions expressiv [expressive] of the object of this meeting and present them on Thursday evening next

Resolved the following named persons be appointed said committee

John Taylor
H. H. Lewis
G. B. Worden
Wm. Hall
Josiah Smart

Resolved the said committee meet at the place above named on Thursday at ten oclock

Resolved that J. M. Thrift was appointed Secretary of said committee

Resolved we meet again on Thursday evening at six o'clock (P.M.) at the place above named

Resolved this meeting a[d]journ til Thursday evening at six oclock (P.M.)

J. M. Thrift
Secretary

Chairman
W. M. Meacham

The committee met on Thursday the 16th (1845) day of Oct. Mr. Wm. Hall being absent Wm. F. Ayres was appointed insted

The committee taking in consideration the rapped emagrations to this cuntry think it proper to form the following Buy-Laws to Viz

Section First Resolved that all persons over the age of sixteen
(1) years doeing for themselves have the right to make a claim
Adpt. themselves or threw thare agents.

Sect. 2d Resolved that all persons ma[y] claim Three Hnd and
Adpt. Twenty Acres in too separate parcels and no moar

Sect. 3d Resolved that all persons making a claim shal work it
Adpt. out by blazing and staking in sutch a maner that the lines ma[y] be esaly traist

Sect. 4th Resolved that all persons making claims on the Des
Adpt. Moines and RacCoon Rivers the river shal constatute one line of said claim

Sect. 5th Resolved that the first person marking out a claim after
Adpt. the legal time be the lawful oner (which time was on the
in part eleventh of Oct. 1845 on Saturday)

Sect. 6th Resolved that all persons marking thare claims out as
Adpt. designated in Section Third and building a house within sixty days at least fourteen feett squair four rounds high shal hold six months from the time of marking said claim

Sect. 7th Resolved that all unresidents after every six months shal
Adpt. putt on Twenty Five Dollars worth of work or caus to be don on said claim.

Sect. 8th Resolved that any persons having diffaultys on relation
Adpt. to thare claims it shal be thare duty for each person to choos an arbatrator and tha too when chosen choos the third person to settle sutch diffaculty

Sect. 9th Resolved that there be a committee of eleven to call out
Adpt. the people to settle claim diffaculties when tha cant be other wise settled

Sect. 10th Resolved that after these resolutions be adopted and since
Adpt. tha be in full foarce

J. M. Thrift	Josiah Smart	John H. Taylor
Secratary	Wm. F. Ayres	H. H. Lewis
		Geo. B. Worden

Sect. 11th Resolved the citizens claimants having met on Oct. 16th
Adpt. 1845 pursuant to resolution of a previous meeting herin
Cap. mentioned do heir in full meeting fully adopt all of the
Allens foregoing resolutions and we do hereby resolve and proclaim
Resolution that we will submit to and abide by all of these resolu-
tions and will protect and defend one another each and all
of us in all that we hav herein resolved and said

Sect. 12th Resolved by this meeting that any citizen claimant who
Adopted shall subscribe his name to these resolutions shall be adopted
as one of the community or neighborhood who have made
Thrift them and he will be entitled to all privileges herin guar-
Resolution anteed and also to our mutual and joint protection

We the undersigned mutually and jointly agree to sanction
and abide by all that is contained in the foregoing resolu-
tions and proceedings

On motion the following committee was appointed

J. Allen	Wm Lamb
John Saylor	Banj. Saylor Senior
Josiah Smart	Jacob Winter
H. H. Lewis	J. M. Thrift
L. E. Rieves	Peter Newcomer
John Ross	

On motion the meeting ajorn Sine dyes

Josiah M. Thrift
Chairman and Secratary

J. Allen	A. J. Scott
W. H. Meacham	Jacob Frederick
William Walker	Milton Singleton
John Saylor	George Reeves
Wm. F. Ayres	Josiah Smart
B. B. Scott	I. Pareons
[H. H.] Lewis	A. Patterson
Lewis Worden	A. Myers
Thos. Crabtree	G. Weldon
Nathan Collins	James Culver
A. J. Baker	M. Baker
Jacob Winter	H. Weldon
Ezra Rathbun	G. Harris
J. M. Worden	John Bairde
Wm. Hall	Charles W. Whittington
Thos. Weklin	Samuel Robinson
Jonathan Rathbun	William Robinson
Benj. Bryant	Joseph Shaw

O. Jewett	I. T.
Josh. M. Thrift	Josiah Keislan
Geo. B. Worden	Henry Weaver
Saml Will Call	Thos. McMullin
Newton Lamb	P. G. Baker
I. Church	Wm. Hughes
James Hart	Wm. Cooper
D. Puttman	Abram Lamb
James Garlick	Andrew Pauley
S. K. Scovell	Stephen Estell
J. S. McCall	Henry Pauley
James Lamb	Andrew H. Pauley
Aaron E. Stark	R. A. Kinzie
Montgomery McCall	B. Saylor
Wm. McKay	Samuel Shafer Sr.
Thos. Michal	Samuel Shafer Jr.
Hamilton Thrift	Alex Cooney

Site of Civil War Camp in Henry County

Evidence of the Civil War in Iowa may yet be seen on the Springdale Stock Farm near Mt. Pleasant. Visibly preserved on the wall of the old springhouse are several names and initials carved in the stone by Iowa soldiers almost a century ago. These young men were members of two regiments organized and briefly trained at Camp Harlan in 1861-62.

Swan's Spring was "just beyond the northwest corner of the camp" appropriately named for Mt. Pleasant's most prominent citizen, U. S. Senator James Harlan. Recruits detailed to carry water in large, iron kettles attached to the ends of ox yokes placed across the shoulders of two boys, came to know it well. A number of them took the opportunity to scratch a lasting reminder of their stay at Camp Harlan. The erection of crude barracks in "an open meadow, lying west of town" was begun by two companies of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, from Fremont and Delaware counties, immediately upon their arrival October 17, 1861. The *Mt. Pleasant Home Journal* reported ten shelters completed by October 26th, and though little clothing, bedding or equipment had been issued, the regiment of 1,086 officers and men was mustered by Captain Alexander Chambers January 1, 1862.

Twelve barracks, of rough pine boards eighty feet long

and twenty wide, and high enough for three tiers of double bunks stood side by side about twenty feet apart. They had a door at both ends, a window on each side and a floor of unfinished boards. A small shed against the rear served as the kitchen. The company stables behind the barracks were long, low sheds, closed on one side.

Townspeople took a good deal of pride in their regiment, providing extra bedding, and other comforts to help the men endure the severe winter and monotony of camp life, many of them away from home for the first time. More than 200 were stricken with measles at one time. Residents of Mt. Pleasant helped to care for the sick in a hospital the surgeon established in town. Nine soldiers died without ever hearing the sound of battle, succumbing to measles, consumption, or exposure. They were buried in the local cemetery. Ordered to St. Louis about February 20th, the Fourth Cavalry proved one of the most dependable regiments of Union cavalry in the war in the west.

Volunteers in the Twenty-fifth Infantry occupied the camp at Mt. Pleasant August 2, 1862, changing its name to Camp McKean. The 10 companies totaling 972 officers and men were sworn in September 27, 1862, and by early November had departed for the South, where the regiment distinguished itself in engagements at Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Walnut Bluff, Chattanooga, Ringgold, on Sherman's March to the Sea, and the Carolina Campaign. Not long after, the barracks and stables of the camp were destroyed by fire.

The Henry County Centennial Committee have identified more than fifteen of the names in the old spring from official rosters of the Fourth Cavalry and Twenty-fifth Infantry, and are making further study of the site one of the more interesting projects in local centennial plans.

Approve Reapportionment Amendment

The constitutional amendment guaranteeing each county one representative in the lower house of the General Assembly and limiting the total membership to 108 was approved by Iowa voters in November, 1904. The Temple amendment governing representation in the House since that date was

passed by the state legislature in 1902, again in 1904, and stirred a minimum of interest when placed on the ballot in the general election, apparently overshadowed by more controversial issues. Polk County with a population of approximately 100,000 people exhibited apprehension over being permanently limited to two representatives, but gave the measure a majority of 1,000 votes. The *Des Moines Register and Leader* viewed it as an artificial means of apportionment though probably the best that could be devised.

Many persons did not vote either way on the question, perhaps because it appeared on the ballot exactly as passed by the legislature, with no indication that it had any connection with the constitution of Iowa. The popular vote on the amendment was 171,382 in favor and 165,076 against it. More than 105,000 voters ignored the question.

The amendment gave each of the ninety-nine counties one representative and eventually provided for two representatives from each of the nine most heavily populated counties. It surprisingly carried in Polk, Pottawattamie, Marshall, Linn, Des Moines and other counties containing larger cities; and there was even some opposition in smaller counties.

Passage of the Temple amendment by a final majority of 6,306 permitted each of the 12 counties comprising the six representative districts of Clay and Palo Alto, Dickinson and Emmet, Ida and Monona, Lyon and Osceola, Winnebago and Worth, and Hancock and Humboldt to elect their own representatives. Two more were expected to be allotted to Lee or Black Hawk counties, depending upon the results of the next census, and another county to be determined later.

First Creamery in Iowa Near Manchester

The dairy industry in Iowa originated almost a century ago. Fine dairy cattle, the best butter and other dairy products were traditionally produced in eastern states when John Stewart established the first dairy in Iowa near Manchester in 1872. He challenged the leading dairymen in the United States and Europe at the International Exposition in Philadelphia in the summer of 1876, and won the gold medal for the "best packet of butter exhibited." The dairy industry in

Iowa grew rapidly. There were seventy creameries in Delaware County by 1884 and at least one in every other county in the state.

Air Force Base Named for Iowan

The headquarters of the United States Caribbean Air Command at Balboa in the Panama Canal Zone, Albroom Air Force Base, was named in honor of First Lieutenant Frank P. Albroom. Born at Delhi, Iowa, July 6, 1892, little is known of his early life. Air Force records indicate he was assigned to the 7th Observation Squadron at France Field in the Canal Zone in March, 1921, and early in 1922 activated and assumed command of the 8th Air Park at the newly completed Balboa Fill Landing Field, a sod strip with little or no permanent housing near the Pacific terminus of the Canal. After the arrival of the 24th Pursuit and 25th Bombardment Squadrons in April, Lt. Albroom served as post engineering officer until his reassignment to Chanute Field, Illinois, as a student May 13, 1924. He was critically injured in an airplane accident near Chanute on August 12, and died of his injuries September 17, 1924. Daily bulletins regarding his condition were issued in the Canal Zone from the time of the accident till his death; and it was at the request of his many friends among the military and civilian personnel that the War Department formally designated Balboa Fill Landing Field as Albroom Field in General Orders #31 dated November 11, 1924.

Albroom Field was later developed into a major U.S. air base. It has served as headquarters for the main air unit in the Caribbean Theater since 1931. Redesignated an air force base in 1947, the command stationed at Albroom is currently responsible for the air defense of the Panama Canal, and all air force programs to provide technical training and assistance to many Latin American countries. The base is frequently host to distinguished visitors due to the nature of its operations, and in adding to the history of Albroom it would appreciate any additional information on the career of Lt. Albroom.

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